

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 186618
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 INRE-00 L-01 SP-02
TRSE-00 /033 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:LKD
APPROVED BY EA/K: MR. SULLIVAN
EA/K: MR. RICH
H: DKENNEY (SUBS)
-----040941 242226Z /75
O 242139Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186618

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON TRANSFER LEGISLATION

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TRANSMITTED BY
PRESIDENT CARTER JUNE 20 TO SENATOR ROBERT BYRD AND
SPEAKER O'NEILL CONCERNING KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM.

BEGIN TEXT:

(A) I UNDERSTAND THAT CONCERN ABOUT THE PROGRAM FOR
CAREFUL AND PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND COMBAT
FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA HAS PROMPTED SOME IN THE CONGRESS
TO PROPOSE PLACING RESTRAINTS ON MY ABILITY TO REDEPLOY
THESE FORCES. APPARENTLY THAT CONCERN RESULTS LARGELY
FROM THE INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT WITHDRAWAL WILL FOLLOW
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A RIGID TIMETABLE NOT SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION IN THE
LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN THE
CASE.

(B) THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHEAST ASIA AND
THE RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA. IT IS NATURAL AND APPROPRIATE THAT SOUTH KOREA ASSUME A GREATER SHARE OF THE BURDEN OF ITS OWN DEFENSE. HOWEVER, THAT BURDEN MUST BE ASSUMED PRUDENTLY AND CAREFULLY. FOR THIS REASON, I DECIDED LAST APRIL TO DEFER A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS UNTIL NEXT YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE THE CONGRESS SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEAL WITH THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

(C) IT IS MY VIEW THAT WITHDRAWAL PHASED OVER A FOUR-TO-FIVE YEAR PERIOD WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PENINSULA. I EXPECT THE WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER WHICH PRESERVES A MILITARY BALANCE AND THUS PROTECTS THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING THE BALANCE CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY, WE WILL ASSESS THESE CHANGES IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND OUR OTHER ASIAN ALLIES. OUR PLANS WILL BE ADJUSTED IF DEVELOPMENTS SO WARRANT.

(D) REPORTS ISSUED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE PROPOSE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKE FULL REVIEWS OF THE IMPACT OF OUR PLANS, THE FORCE BALANCE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN CONNECTION WITH FURTHER GROUND FORCE

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WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA, AND REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE RESULTS OF THESE REVIEWS. I ENDORSE THE COMMITTEES' AIM AND LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR ASSESSMENTS WITH THE CONGRESS.

(E) MEANWHILE, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT I HAVE THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO BEGIN EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS AND TRAINING OPERATIONS WHICH WILL SAFEGUARD THE MILITARY BALANCE ON THE PENINSULA. I HOPE THE CONGRESS WILL PROMPTLY ENACT THE EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY AND FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT AUTHORIZATIONS ALREADY RECOMMENDED BY BOTH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER

END TEXT.

2. LETTER WILL BE RATHER WIDELY DISSEMINATED IN THE SENATE JULY 25, AND THEREFORE WILL PROBABLY BECOME KNOWN SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY THE PRESS. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE A COPY TO THE ROKG, ALTHOUGH YOU SHOULD REQUEST THAT IT

HANDLE THE LETTER CONFIDENTIALLY UNTIL IT BECOMES
PUBLICLY KNOWN FROM SENATE SOURCES. WE ARE PROVIDING A
COPY ALSO TO ROK EMBASSY HERE. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 186618
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

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DRAFTED BY:ROBERT G. RICH. JR.

APPROVED BY:ROBERT G RICH, JR. EA/K

-----054022 252256Z /46

O 252059Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186618

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 186618 ACTION SEOUL JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186618

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TO PROPOSE PLACING RESTRAINTS ON MY ABILITY TO REDEPLOY THESE FORCES. APPARENTLY THAT CONCERN RESULTS LARGELY FROM THE INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT WITHDRAWAL WILL FOLLOW A RIGID TIMETABLE NOT SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN THE CASE.

(B) THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHEAST ASIA AND THE RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. IT IS NATURAL AND APPROPRIATE THAT SOUTH KOREA ASSUME A GREATER SHARE OF THE BURDEN OF ITS OWN DEFENSE. HOWEVER, THAT BURDEN MUST BE ASSUMED PRUDENTLY AND CAREFULLY. FOR THIS REASON, I DECIDED LAST APRIL TO DEFER A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS UNTIL NEXT YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE THE CONGRESS SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEAL WITH THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

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ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKE FULL REVIEWS OF THE IMPACT OF OUR PLANS, THE FORCE BALANCE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN CONNECTION WITH FURTHER GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA, AND REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE RESULTS OF THESE REVIEWS. I ENDORSE THE COMMITTEES' AIM AND LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR ASSESSMENTS WITH THE CONGRESS.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE186618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBLAKEMORE:LKD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-1059
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780726/aaaaawaf.tel
Line Count: 243
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2725f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1904633
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON TRANSFER LEGISLATION
TAGS: MASS, PPDC, PCAT
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2725f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Sheryl P. Walter
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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